

Conbridge Urban District Council.

ANNUAL * REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ON

THE HEALTH

OF THE

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT

IN 1896.



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ANNUAL REPORT on the Health of the Tonbridge Urban Sanitary District in 1896.

CENSUS 1881.	CENSUS 1891.
No. of Acres 1,200	No. of Acres 1,200
Inhabited Houses . 1,808	Inhabited Houses . 1,988
Population 9,340	Population 10,117

The **Population** of the Tonbridge Urban District was estimated by the method adopted by the Registrar-General to be **10,527** at the middle of 1896, showing an increase of 84 since the middle of 1895.

The registered births amounted to 252, including 131 of males, and 121 of females, and giving a **Birth-rate** of **23.9**, as against 24.8 in 1894 and 27.8 in 1895.

One hundred and twenty-seven deaths were returned, which included 64 of males and 63 of females. The **Death-rate** was **13.2** per 1000, as against 13.1 in the previous year and 12.1 in 1894.*

The Infant Mortality, *i.e.*, the number of deaths of infants under one year per each thousand registered births, showed a very low figure, being **87**, as compared with 106 in 1895.

Of the total 127 deaths 7 were caused by one or other of the seven principal zymotic diseases, viz., three by Enteric Fever, one by Measles, one by Whooping-cough, and two by Diarrhoea.

* The death-rate is based on the estimated population calculated by the method adopted by the Registrar-General. The increase in the population during the year has, however, been much larger than the normal increase, and the actual death-rate is, therefore, presumably somewhat lower than 13.2 per 1000,

The **Zymotic Death-rate** was **0.6** per 1000, as compared with 1.2 in 1895 and 1.1 in 1894.

It is very satisfactory to note that not a single death from Small-pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, or Influenza, occurred in the District throughout the year.

During the year 1896 the birth-rate throughout England and Wales was 29.7, the general death-rate 17.1, and the zymotic death-rate 2.18 per 1000 of the population. The rate of mortality among infants under one year of age to each 1000 registered births, was 14.8.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Under the provisions of the Infectious Disease Notification Act, 84 cases were reported as compared with 197 during 1895. These included 52 cases of Scarlet Fever, 11 of Diphtheria, 13 of Enteric Fever, and 8 of Erysipelas.

Small-pox.—No case was actually reported within the Urban District, but during the month of April a tramp who had contracted the disease, slept at a Common Lodging House in the town. On appearing at the tramp ward at the Union Workhouse, Pembury, on the following evening, the disease was detected and he was detained and isolated until cured.

The Lodging House was visited by your Inspector and myself on several occasions, bedding was destroyed, the rooms twice fumigated, and a list kept for three weeks of inmates, recording where they had come from and where going. By these means the infection was destroyed and no one else took the disease. Every assistance was given us in carrying out these measures by the proprietor.

Scarlet Fever.—A special Report on the excessive prevalence of this disease during 1895, dealing with its local and seasonal incidence, relation to school attendance,

and recommendations for the prevention or limitation of future epidemics, was presented to your Council on April 28th last. During the past year 52 cases were notified thus:—

1st quarter.	2nd quarter.	3rd quarter.	4th quarter.
17	19	13	3
=52 cases			

Diphtheria.—The eleven notified cases of this disease were also non-fatal, and were of a relatively mild type to that which prevailed in some neighbouring districts.

Their monthly distribution was as follows:—

January	1
July	1
August	2
November ...	1
December ...	6

The non-fatality is partially accounted for by the fact that few very young children were attacked, as shown by the following age periods:—

0 - 1 year	5 - 15 years	15 - 25 years	25 - 65 years	
1	7	2	1	=11 cases

Locally they were distributed—one in High Street, one in Vale Road, two in Uridge Road, one in the Slade, one in the Avenue, Houselands, one in Hawden Road, one in Pembury Road, two in Woodspring Road, and one in Lavender Hill.

Enteric (Typhoid) Fever.—Thirteen cases were notified, with three fatalities. The deaths occurred in Lavender Hill, Hadlow Road, and High Street, during the months of May, June and December. One was an adult and the other two both aged 12 years.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Measles.—Only one death occurred from this disease, on February 29th, being that of a boy aged 11 years, in the School Sanatorium.

Whooping Cough caused also a single death during the year, the patient being a child under one year of age who died on December 25th.

Diarrhoea.—This disease caused two deaths, one in January and the other in September. The first was a baby and the second a female aged 79 years.

ISOLATION.

Forty-four cases of notifiable infectious disease were removed to the Isolation Hospital, Vauxhall Road.

The admissions were as follows :—

January	...	8	(Scarlet Fever)
March	...	6	"
April	...	5	"
May	...	9	"
June	...	2	"
July	...	6	(5 Scarlet Fever, 1 Diphtheria)
August	...	1	(Scarlet Fever)
September	..	3	(2 Scarlet Fever, 1 Diphtheria)
November	...	1	(Erysipelas)
December	...	3	(2 Scarlet Fever, 1 Diphtheria)

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The ages of the patients varied from one to 38 years ; the longest stay at the hospital was 56, the shortest 14, and the average stay 39 days.

Many improvements have been made at the Isolation Hospital during the year, and your Council have now under consideration my recommendations for the provision of a proper laundry and a steam disinfecting apparatus.

The main sanitary conditions of the Hospital are now satisfactory—constant water supply, efficient sewage disposal, and improved heating appliances, with a reasonable amount of air-space for the patients ; and persons attacked by infectious disease now show much less reluctance to be treated in Hospital, as they learn that the sanitation is above suspicion and the administration efficient. This growing confidence should be fostered by continued improvements.

No deaths occurred in the Hospital during the year.

Eleven cases of notified disease were treated in the School Sanatorium, and included nine cases of Scarlet Fever, one of Typhoid Fever, and one of Erysipelas.

There were thus 55 total cases removed for isolated treatment, or 65.4 per cent. of the total notified cases.

Mr. Bradley's report of work done during the year, the customary tables and the returns required by the Local Government Board, are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Feb. 15th, 1897.

JAMES SCOTT TEW.

TABLE A.

The number of Deaths from all causes and from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, with their Death Rates; the principal causes of Death, and the Infant Mortality in the Tonbridge Urban District in each Quarter of 1896.

Quarters.	Total Deaths.	Death Rate per 1000.	Deaths from 7 principal Zymotic Diseases.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronh. Pleurisy, Pneumonia.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Deaths of Infants under one year per 1,000 Births.
1st	32	12.9	2	0.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	3	4	2	..	..	21	125
2nd	30	11.7	2	0.7	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	1	..	..	20	51
3rd	21	9.4	1	0.3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	3	2	..	..	12	79
4th	44	18.9	2	0.7	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	3	11	2	..	..	26	96
Totals	127	13.2	7	0.6	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	1	2	..	12	22	7	..	..	79	87

TABLE B.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases during the past ten years and in 1896.

Zymotic Diseases.	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	Average of ten years.	1896
Small Pox.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0	0
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	0.5	0
Diphtheria	2	1	3	1	...	...	1	2	6	...	1.6	0
Fevers .....	...	2	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	0.8	3
Measles	7	...	...	7	1	...	3	...	...	6	2.4	1
Whooping-Cough .....	...	1	4	...	4	14	...	4	2	1	3.0	1
Diarrhoea	9	7	4	...	...	1	4	1	...	4	3.0	2
Total 7 Zymotics	18	11	13	9	5	16	9	8	11	13	11.3	7
Other Zymotics	3	1	2	1	5	7	16	7	1	4	4.7	0
Totals	21	12	15	10	10	23	25	15	12	17	16.0	7

REPORT and SCHEDULE of Sanitary Work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during the year 1896.

The Common Lodging Houses have been inspected and appear to be fairly well conducted. Two of the worst houses have ceased to be used for this purpose.

Cowsheds, Dairies, and Slaughter-houses have been periodically inspected and found in a cleanly condition. Four registrations under the Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshops Order, have been made during the year.

The work in connection with the prevention of Infectious Disease has been considerably lighter than in 1895. It necessitated 80 visits to infected houses, the removal of 44 cases to hospital, and the disinfecting of about 50 rooms and a quantity of bedding and clothing.

It has been necessary to resort to legal proceedings in only one instance during the year, viz.:—for exposing unsound meat for sale, when a fine of £10 and costs was imposed.

The following is the Schedule of Work done during the year :—

Notices served (on complaint and otherwise)	66
New W.C.'s, cisterns provided, house drains repaired and unstopped, sink waste taken outside and disconnected, and bell traps replaced by gulleys.....	57
Houses completely re-drained and disconnected from Sewer	48
Dust-bins provided	14
Accumulations of filth or manure removed by notice	9
Wells repaired and cleansed	1
Stables re-drained.....	1
Nuisances caused by keeping animals abated.....	5
Cases of over-crowding abated	1
Houses lime-washed and cleansed.....	6
Workshops ditto ditto	1
Wells condemned by Analyst	13
Houses supplied with Company's Water	39
Houses declared unfit for habitation	1

WM. LAURENCE BRADLEY,

Assoc. San. Inst.,

Sanitary Inspector.

ENGINEER and BUILDING SURVEYOR'S REPORT, 1896.

BUILDINGS.

Buildings in course of erection have been inspected from time to time, only eight notices have been served for breaches of the Bye-laws, and it is satisfactory to report that there has been no occasion to take legal proceedings. I might also state that there is a general willingness on the part of local builders to adopt any reasonable suggestions I may make.

The total number of plans submitted to the Council during the past year amounted to 106 sets, of which 5 were disapproved. The approved plans I have classified as follows, and for purposes of comparison I have shown the table for 1895, which was my first Annual Report:—

Year.	Alterations and Additions.	Dwellings.	Shops.	Public Houses.	Factories, &c.	Streets.
1895	29	94	5	1	4	12
1896	38	176	15	1	10	2

The number of houses certified for occupation during the year was 125 as against 50 during 1895.

SEWERAGE.

During the year new sewers have been laid by the Council in Quarry Hill and Waterloo Place, comprising a total length of 500 feet, with the necessary manholes and ventilating shafts.

Surface water drains have also been laid in Quarry Hill and Woodside Road, comprising a total length of 1,400 ft.

Two manholes have been enlarged and 1 new one built in Hawden Road.

Five new ventilating shafts have been erected in various parts of the town.

In addition to the new sewers which have been laid by the Council, about 3,000 feet of sewers have been laid under my personal supervision on the Meadow Lawn Estate, Barden Park Estate, Barden Road, and Gladstone Road, in addition to the surface water drains which are of a similar length.

Twelve manholes and flushing chambers have been constructed in connection with these sewers, and I am pleased to be able to say that the whole of this work has been exceedingly well carried out.

SEWAGE WORKS AND FARM.

The work of this department has progressed satisfactorily during the year, and it is pleasing to note the fact that not a single complaint has been received during that time. A new brick carrier has been constructed, and I propose going on with the work when the weather is suitable.

SCAVENGING.

On the whole this work has been carried out satisfactorily during the year, nearly 3,000 loads of house refuse having been carted to the Farm, but I have been sorely hampered at times by being short of horse labour. Four new horses have been purchased, and I hope now to be able to get round the district quicker than heretofore, but the fact of the town's rapid growth and the additional work must not be lost sight of.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

During the year a considerable portion of the Hospital has been painted and 5 new closets provided.

HIGH STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

Since my last report 6 additional shops have been erected on the surplus land between Snelling Row and the Dorset Arms, thus filling up the gap left at this part of the street. The Council have also acquired other property in furtherance of the scheme, and this will be pulled down early in 1897.

Arrangements have also been made with the Kent County Council for the widening of the Little Bridge in conformity with the new building line.

Two new shops have also been built on vacant land on the east side of the street between the Little Bridge and the Bull Hotel, and Mr. Greenfield has pulled down his old shop (No. 47), and erected larger and more substantial premises on the same site. In these cases the old building line has been adhered to.

A small but needed improvement has also been effected by the removal of the projecting part of Mr. West's old shop (No. 43) and the substitution of a more modern front which does not obstruct the traffic.

Plans have been prepared and submitted to the Local Government Board for Sewerage Works and for various works at the Isolation Hospital, necessitating a large amount of work of an engineering nature, and the coming year is likely to be a very busy one. It is needless for me to refer to the rapid growth of the town or the increase in its rateable value, which will be seen from the following table.

	£	s.	d.
1892	47,340	15	0
1893	48,061	5	0
1894	50,747	5	0
1895	53,949	0	0
1896	55,535	0	0

In concluding this my second Annual Report I again beg to thank the Council for the kind consideration I have received at their hands.

WM. LAURENCE BRADLEY,

Engineer and Building Surveyor.

TONBRIDGE :
M. STONESTREET, PRINTER, HIGH STREET.

